

Application No. 10/882,103
Amendment dated July 30, 2009
Reply to Office Action dated April 1, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a system A process for effectuating the shipment appointment-making process between one two or more buyers and sellers and optionally their third party providers (buyers, sellers and third party providers collectively called Partners) in a supply community, a~~ the process including the steps of:

~~providing one or more ship locations from which goods are picked up or to which goods are delivered;~~

~~providing an internet website application that is configured and enabled to allow each ship location to individually create, configure and maintain a ship location Partner creating, configuring, and maintaining an appointment calendar that is unique to each ship location;~~

~~one or more other Partners contemporaneously accessing the internet website application and querying the appointment calendar for a specific any ship location to determine available pick-up and delivery dock times for that ship location;~~

~~the one or more other Partners submitting an appointment reservation request requests to the any ship location Partner; and the~~

~~any ship location Partner declining or accepting the appointment reservation request requests submitted to that ship location.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the appointment calendar ~~for each ship location~~ is created, configured, and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate the operating hours of the ship location and the number of dock doors in operation during those hours of operation, the peak and off-peak hours of the ship location for any reason, the duration of each dock time slot, any dock time slots

set aside by the ship location for any reason and thereby unavailable to the one or more ~~other~~ Partners for requesting an appointment reservation, the lead-time required for requesting an appointment reservation of a dock time slot in the appointment calendar, the appointment reservation request auto-approval aging time, and the appointment-making privileges of the one or more ~~other~~ Partners as specified by the ship location Partner.

3. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the appointment-making privileges specified by the each ship location Partner include the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request a repeating standing appointment, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments.
4. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the each ship location Partner may elect to manually review and approve or decline the appointment reservation requests and to auto-accept the appointment reservation requests for any Partners that have not been granted self-appointing privileges by that ship location Partner after the appointment request auto-approval aging time specified by the ship location Partner has elapsed.
5. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the a ship location is owned by at least one Partner operated by a seller or buyer.
6. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the a ship location is operated by a third-party owned facility serving one or more Partners logistics provider.
7. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one Partner of the Partners is a carrier.
8. (Currently Amended) The method process as claimed in claim 2 wherein at least one Partner of the Partners is a shipper.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~method process~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour so as to facilitate Partner collaboration in the planning of the multi-Partner shipment.
10. (Currently Amended) The ~~method process~~ as claimed in claim 9 wherein the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop pick-up and delivery shipments.
11. (Currently Amended) A system for effectuating the shipment appointment-making process between one two or more buyers and sellers and optionally their third-party service providers (buyers, sellers and third party service providers collectively called Partners) in a supply community, the system comprising: means by which a ship location Partner can for one or more ship locations from which goods are picked up or to which goods are delivered to create, configure and maintain an appointment calendar for the that is unique to each ship location; means for one or more Partners to contemporaneously access the appointment calendar of any ship location; means for one or more other Partners to query the appointment calendar for a any ship location to determine available pick-up and delivery dock times for that ship location; means for the one or more other Partners to submit an appointment reservation request requests to the any ship location Partner; and means for the any ship location Partner to decline or accept the appointment reservation request requests submitted to that ship location.
12. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the appointment calendar for each ship location is created, configured and managed in such a manner as to consider and incorporate the operating hours of the ship location and the number of dock doors in operation during those hours of operation, the peak and off-peak hours of the ship location for any reason, the duration of each dock time slot, any dock time slots set-aside by the ship location for any reason and thereby unavailable to the one or more other

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Partners for requesting ~~an~~ appointment ~~reservation~~ reservations, the lead-time required for requesting ~~an~~ appointment ~~reservation~~ reservations of a dock time slot in the appointment calendar, the appointment reservation request auto-approval aging time, and the appointment-making privileges of the one or more ~~other~~ Partners as specified by the ship location Partner.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the appointment-making privileges specified by ~~the~~ each ship location Partner include the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request a repeating standing appointment, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments.
14. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 13 wherein ~~the~~ each ship location Partner may elect to manually review and approve or decline the appointment reservation requests and to auto-accept the appointment reservation requests for any ~~other~~ Partners that have not been granted self-appointing privileges by that ship location Partner after the appointment request auto-approval aging time specified by the ship location Partner has elapsed.
15. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ a ship location is ~~owned by a Partner operated by a seller or buyer~~.
16. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ a ship location is ~~operated by a third party owned facility serving one or more Partners service provider~~.
17. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 10 11 wherein ~~at least one Partner of the Partners~~ is a carrier.
18. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 10 11 wherein at least one ~~Partner of the Partners~~ is a shipper.
19. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 10 11 wherein a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is

relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour to facilitate Partner collaboration in the planning of multi-Partner shipments.

20. (Original) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop and delivery shipments.
21. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim ~~20~~ 12 wherein the appointment-making privileges include the privilege to request a pre-appointment, the privilege to request repeating standing appointments, and the privilege to self-appoint appointments; ~~the a~~ ship location Partner may manually review and accept and reject the appointment requests ~~and or~~ auto-accept the requests after a location-specified appointment request auto-approval aging time has elapsed; ~~the a~~ ship location is owned by a Partner; ~~the ship location is seller, buyer or a third party owned facility serving one or more~~ Partners~~service provider~~; at least one Partner is a carrier; ~~at least one Partner is or a~~ shipper, a Partner may query and view appointment information for any appointment reservation request and for any approved appointment reservation provided that the appointment reservation is relevant to that Partner including the entirety of a multi-Partner multi-segment tour so as to facilitate Partner corroboration in the planning of the multi-Partner shipment; and the entirety of the multi-Partner multi-segment tour includes continuous move and multi-stop pick up and delivery shipments.